



February 19, 2026 | Scottish Rite Masonic Center

AGENDA

- 7:00-7:45 Registration Opens
Breakfast – *provided*
Visit Exhibitors
- 7:45-8:00 **Welcome and Introductions**
Presenters: Blake Smith, NNA President and Barb Peterson, LARC Chair
- 8:00-8:30 **Level Up: Advocacy Essentials (0.5 CH)**
Presenter: Blair MacDonald, NNA Lobbyist
- 8:30-9:30 **Power of Our Voice: Spearheading Policy Initiatives (1.0 CH)**
Our panelists will share their experiences in spearheading policy initiatives, negotiating with stakeholders to find common ground, and activating professional and community members alike to support policy that promotes health for Nebraskans.
Moderator: Blake Smith
Panelists: Jed Hansen, Blair MacDonald, Libby Mollard
- 9:30-9:45 Networking Break/Visit Exhibitors
- 9:45-10:15 **Policy Success: The Lifespan of Legislative Bill 227 (0.5 CH)**
This presentation highlights the significance of LB227 in fostering partnerships between hospitals and nursing programs to expand clinical site rotations for nursing students in Nebraska. (Columbus Hospital-UNMC)
Presenters: Alecia Neidig, Wendy Ramaekers, Natalie Sprunk
- 10:15-10:45 **NNA Legislative Update: Current Bills and Advocacy Priorities (0.5 CH)**
Presenters: Barb Petersen, Chair, Lina Bostwick, Joshua Harvey, Julia Keown, and Kara Tomlinson, Legislative, Advocacy and Representation Committee (LARC) Members
- 10:45-11:15 **Attendees Walk to Capitol**
Group photo on lawn or steps of capitol. Group meets in Rotunda
- 11:15-12:00 **Introduction to the NE Legislature (0.75 CH)**
- 12:00-1:30 **Pre-arranged Meeting(s) with Senators**
Lunch is not provided. Plan to bring your lunch or visit the Capitol cafeteria.
- 1:30-3:00 **Attend Scheduled Hearings (1.5 CH)**

Disclosures

Criteria for Successful Completion – Participants must register, participate in all educational sessions, actively participate in the Capitol activities, and complete the online evaluation to receive a certificate of completion.

4.75 contact hours will be available to those participants who meet the successful completion requirements.

VTL Center for Professional Development is accredited as a provider of nursing continuing professional development by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.